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# HOWARD UNIVERSITY RECORD

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## The J. E. Moorland Foundation of The University Library



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HOWARD UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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INTERIOR OF CARNEGIE LIBRARY

DR. MOORLAND'S LETTER

Upon December 19, 1914 the following letter which created the J. E. Moorland Foundation was received by President Newman.

Washington, D. C.,  
December 18, 1914.

President S. M. Newman,  
Howard University.

My dear President Newman:

After due consideration I have decided to turn my collection of books, pictures, statuary etc., on the "Negro and Slavery" over to Howard University. The Collection has been regarded by many experts as probably the largest and most complete yet gathered by a single individual. I have spent many years and considerable means in getting this collection together. The books have been collected from over the entire country and, therefore, are probably more representative of the literature on the subject than they would be, had they been collected in any single place for then they would refer more largely to a local condition. Some of the pictures are rare and valuable engravings. A piece of statuary by Rogers, is indeed a rare gem.

I am giving this collection to the University because it is the one place in America where the largest and best library on this subject should be constructively established. It is also the place where our young people who have the scholarly instinct should have the privilege of a complete Reference Library on the subject. Again, I owe much to Howard University for what small success I have thus far had in life and I feel it my duty to return something for what I have received. Mrs. Moorland, who is also an alumnus of the University, joins most heartily with me in this decision and we both hope that this collection will prove of value to the University in many untold ways. I have just learned that it is far more valuable than I had at any time supposed

according to the valuation of a collection which is now for sale. It is easily worth Two or Three Thousand Dollars.

I shall be glad to make immediate arrangements with you to have the books transferred to the University and shall, of course, expect them to be properly catalogued and placed in an appropriate alcove or room.

In conclusion, it gives me no small pleasure to turn this collection over to my Alma Mater through you, my former teacher, who unconsciously inspired me with the desire for historic research.

With best wishes, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

J. E. Moorland.

P. S. May I add that the profound interest of my personal friend, Professor Kelly Miller, in the establishment of such a library at Howard University, has had much to do with my decision. We are exceedingly fortunate in having his services at our command at this time.

J. E. M.

#### ACTION OF TRUSTEES

At the next meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees President Newman presented the above letter from Dr. Moorland and

"on motion of Justice Atkinson seconded by Mr. Rudolph the Secretary was instructed to present the thanks of the Executive Committee for his generous and munificent donation and that he be informed that the same will be presented to the Board of Trustees at its forthcoming meeting for its consideration."

The following is an extract from the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held February 5, 1915.

"President Newman reported the donation to the University by Dr. J. E. Moorland of his extensive collection of books, pamphlets, etc. on Negro slavery and Africa.

The Board of Trustees accepted the magnificent donation of Dr. Moorland by a rising vote of thanks, and on vote of Mr. Hilyer seconded by Dr. Waring, the following resolutions were adopted and the Secretary was instructed to carry out the instructions contained therein:—

Whereas, Dr. J. E. Moorland, D. D., a member of the Board and an Alumnus of Howard University, with a largeness of vision and a spirit of liberality highly commendable has donated to the University without condition his very valuable collection of upwards of three thousands (3000) titles of books, pamphlets, manuscripts, etc. either written by persons of color or relating to the Negroes in America and Africa and elsewhere, said collection having been made by him over a period covering several years and at a great cost to him in time and money.

Be It Resolved by the Board of Trustees of Howard University that this collection be received and accepted and that this Board express its appreciation and thanks for this most valuable and interesting gift by a standing vote.

Be It Further Resolved, that this collection be turned over to the Librarian of Howard University, and that when made available for reference there shall be placed upon each title of this collection the words "The Moorland Foundation, donated by Dr. J. E. Moorland, D. D., a Trustee and Alumnus of Howard University, December, 1914."

Be It Further Resolved, that the foregoing preamble and resolution be engraved on parchment duly authenticated and presented to the donor as an evidence of the appreciation of this Board for the gift to Howard University.

President Newman stated that he and Dean Miller, who is very much interested in this line of work, had been considering the idea of making this collection a nucleus for a special



department of the Library with the ultimate intention of establishing a Chair in the University. In this connection Dean Miller had written to a large number of persons asking what they thought would be the result if Howard University should undertake to establish such a department on a large scale, and had received a number of very encouraging replies. After a lengthy discussion of ways and means, Dr. Richards moved that this matter be referred to a committee of three for report at the annual meeting in June. Seconded by Dr. Waring and carried. Justice Peelle named the following committee: Dr. J. E. Moorland, Dr. Thomas Jesse Jones and Mr. A. F. Hilyer."

#### LETTERS OF APPROVAL

"If there is any way in which I can help you to collect the Americana to which you refer I shall very gladly do it. The Reverend Dr. Hutchins C. Bishop of St. Philip's Church in this city tells me that he has a few pamphlets which he will contribute to the collection. I will keep the matter in mind in the hope that I may put you in the way of finding some interesting and valuable documents."

DAVID H. GREER,  
*Bishop of Diocese of New York.*

"The project is certainly a desirable one, and we shall wish you all success in it. I have no doubt that in connection with it our collections here may prove serviceable. They include, of course, a collection of books by Negro authors. Such a collection would form but a fraction of your scheme which, as you say, will require elaborate and protracted treatment.

It will also require money. I shall hope to hear one of these days that you have secured a special fund for it."

HERBERT PUTNAM,  
*Librarian, Library of Congress.*

"It is an interesting task, and you will have much enjoyment in carrying it out."

WALTER H. PAGE,  
*U. S. Ambassador to England.*

"It is an excellent idea."

ALBERT BUSHNELL HART,  
*Professor in Harvard University.*



"I am glad that you have undertaken the collection which you describe, for it will be of much historical value. . . . . I shall watch its development with sympathetic interest."

FRANCIS G. PEABODY,  
*Cambridge, Mass.*

"I am greatly interested in the plan that you are proposing."

ARTHUR HADLEY,  
*President Yale University.*

"In my opinion, you will be conferring a great favor on the future students and investigators by carrying out that plan (to collect printed material on the American Negro). I should also think you would be at an advantage in doing so, and would suggest your arousing an interest among your graduates and among others in close touch with the educational, church, philanthropic, and similar work among the Negroes. Through their cooperation, you should be able to collect, preserve, and make accessible published documents covering those fields."

J. C. SCHWAB,  
*Librarian, Yale University.*

"I am interested in your project referred to in the letter of January 22nd. A collection of Negro Americana is much to be desired."

FRANKLIN H. GIDDINGS,  
*Professor of Sociology, Columbia University.*

. . . "I wish to express to you for the University and the Library our interest in the plan of Howard University to collect Negro Americana. If it is possible to assist you in any way we shall be glad to do so."

FREDERICK C. HICKS,  
*Assistant Librarian, Columbia University.*

"The enterprise commends itself to me as in every way desirable. I should be glad to use such opportunity as I have to acquaint others with the enterprise and to assist you in it."

ERNEST D. BURTON,  
*Director of Libraries, University of Chicago.*

"It seems to me that such an exhibit as that would be of value as testimony of what the race had done."

HERBERT D. FOSTER,  
*Professor of History, Dartmouth College.*

"I write to say that I am glad to learn that your University proposes to take up so praiseworthy a work as that mentioned in the letter in question."

CHARLES J. BONAPARTE,  
*Baltimore, Md.*

"What you send me in the clipping from the *Washington Star* you enclose, and your statement about Negro Americana are interesting. Such a collection would be of very great value. . . The subject is one which has long interested me, and to which I have given some attention."

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS,  
*Washington, D. C.*

"I think you have a fine beginning in Negro Americana. I trust that the University will take immediate and thoughtful steps to make Howard University Library a great center in this line."

W. E. B. DuBOIS,  
*Editor of The Crisis.*

"I am gratified to learn of the collection of Negro Americana undertaken by Howard. You know my deep interest in such a plan while I was with you, and now that it has been undertaken with a view to making it as complete as practicable, I am glad to assure you of my hearty cöoperation."

BISHOP W. P. THIRKIELD,  
*Ex-President of Howard University*

"It is certainly an interesting and important task that Howard University has undertaken in making a collection of Negro Americana."

ERNEST H. ABBOTT,  
*Secretary of The Outlook Company.*

"Your plan for a collection of Negro Americana is very interesting and should prove very valuable to every student of the problem."

RAY STANNARD BAKER,  
*Editor of The American Magazine*

"Added to the Tappan, Cromwell and Lavallette collections of the same sort of material, already in the possession of the University, this new supply will make the library exceedingly rich."

*Christian Science Monitor,*  
January 9, 1915.

"The enterprise is a most desirable one, and the cordial coöperation of everyone who can help will be of service not only to the university, but to present and future generations of historians, to whom the collection will be available."

*The Springfield Daily Republican,*  
January 30, 1915.

#### EXTENT OF COLLECTIONS

There are in the Moorland Collection 800 volumes and a larger number of pamphlets. In the Tappan Collection there are 300 volumes and numerous pamphlets. The Lavalette gift brought us about 60 volumes for the Foundation. There are 260 volumes and many pamphlets scattered through the other material of the Library. There are 70 bound volumes of newspaper material in the Cromwell Collection. Altogether we have about 1,500 volumes besides a great many pamphlets. Much material is scattered through the magazines which it is planned to make available for the purposes of the Foundation.

In the Moorland gift some of the subjects covered are Customs, Folk Lore, Music, Churches, Education, Institutions, Economic Conditions, Fiction, Poetry, Essays, Biography, Anti-Slavery History, Race Question, History of the Race, Origin of Races, etc., etc.

The Tappan volumes are largely devoted to Anti-Slavery History.

The Lavalette volumes are miscellaneous in character and the many volumes of newspaper clippings in the Cromwell Collection cover the period of the Civil War and a few later years. The matter gathered is very important.

## ORGANIZING THE MATERIAL

It will be seen that the work of preparing this material for use is a large one. No library in the country has a classification suitable for our purpose. Hence one must be created. The task was begun at once and has been steadily going forward as rapidly as the workers of the Library could do it. Many questions of classification, notation, etc., had to be decided upon permanent principles, so that no work need be done over again. These decisions must be reached before other material is added so that the growth may be well-regulated, and additions can be absorbed into the Foundation quickly.

The entire collection will be put under the letter M (Moorland) and the necessary call numbers for the different kinds of literature will be attached to this letter. It will be possible for a student to find any class of books and any book in each class very readily.

It is necessary to work out some plan by which the large number of pamphlets can be made readily available for reference and study. Few libraries have well-established methods of handling pamphlets. Much of the very best historical matter is laid aside in large libraries and is difficult of access because of the lack of a system which makes reference to it an easy thing. The problem is an acute one in a University Library where quick reference is needed for the writing of theses and for debating. It is difficult at best to handle a thin pamphlet in paper covers. Ultimately such matter must be made available. By the study of the latest and best methods it is hoped to put our collection into fine shape. Some libraries bind together pamphlets upon related topics, but this method has at the best serious disadvantages. The ideal method is to make the individual pamphlet easy to find and to use by itself. The tendency in the best library methods at present seems to be an effort to reach this ideal.

## THE GENERAL LIBRARY

A few facts with regard to the library as a whole will be of interest in this report. The following extracts are made from the last report of the Librarian for the year 1914-15. They at once show the growing importance of the Library as a whole.

Total number new books added.....	2172
Purchased .....	826
Gifts including Moorland Collection.....	1346
Old copies not previously accessioned.....	160
Total number books accessioned..	2332
Last accession number.....	52865
Total number volumes catalogued.....	2462
Total number cards filed in catalogue .....	4217
Total number cards filed in shelf list.....	1480
Total number periodicals.....	146
Purchased .....	105
Gifts .....	41
Total number books bound.....	188
Magazines .....	90
Howard University Publications.....	3
Registration (This year only).....	763
Circulation (Daily).....	29897
Average.....	150
Largest daily (March 16).....	282

The library has been fortunate this year in receiving a large number of books, especially those on and about the negro given by Dr. J. E. Moorland. A special classification scheme has been worked out by the staff for this subject. Plans are made for the growth of a large collection. The medical books were sent down to the Medical School the last of October and a branch library started with Dr. Smith in charge.

Miss Edith Brown, Simmons 1914, took charge of the cataloguing and has performed her duties with skill and interest. Miss Rosa Hershaw has taken the place of four of the student assistants thereby greatly increasing the efficiency of the library staff. Miss Allan has done all the classifying and has with the help of Miss Brown gone over the Theological collection and put it in shape to be catalogued. The volumes which we think useless for our work are stored in the basement until they can be revised by an expert. More work has been accomplished this year than ever before and the possibilities for next year are promising. All this work has been done in a cheerful and willing spirit which greatly increases the efficiency of the service.

## OUR APPEAL

We desire that every one to whom this statement comes should look over all books and pamphlets in the house so that material suitable for the Foundation may be placed here by gift for future students. Tell friends about it so that they may do likewise. Authors will be honoring themselves as well as the University if they place here by gift complete sets of their works. Dr. Moorland is continuing his work of collection and has brought in quite a lot of volumes he has bought since he made the original gift. Whenever he gets another volume it will be added to the Foundation. If friends everywhere will make a careful examination of their book shelves or volumes laid aside and send us what they find, we can enlarge our collection very rapidly. If duplicates are sent us we can use them for exchange in getting other volumes. We shall be very glad if librarians will send us lists for gift or exchange.

Let it be remembered that almost everything will be valuable for historical purposes a hundred years hence. Programs of celebrations, church manuals, historical addresses, sermons upon race questions, memorials of those who die, etc., are all wanted and copies should be mailed to us as soon as possible.

It should be said also that gifts of money will be gratefully received to help us buy what cannot be otherwise obtained. We will expend such money strictly for the purpose named.

### THE POSSIBILITY

☞ Here then is the chance to help build up a notable collection in the greatest institution of its kind in the world, in the central city of the nation,—a collection which will benefit the undergraduate or the specialist in research work. No other place is so appropriate as this one, surrounded as it is by the great government libraries. Give us your books and pamphlets before you lose sight of them. Let each one be a missionary for this collection.

☞ Send all material or write about it to

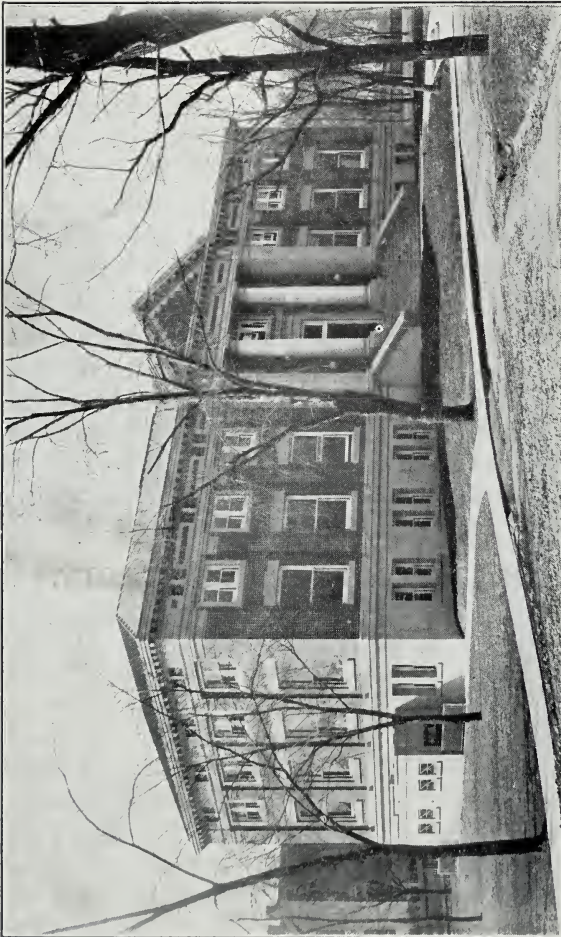
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